

## C. AN INDIVIDUAL CHILD : URSULA

Y

The following records of Ursula's sayings and doings over a critical period of her life illustrate several different sections of the main classification of material. I have, however, kept them together as an individual study because of the supreme interest of watching the movement of a particular child's mind as she passes through events of such central importance for her emotional life.

At the beginning of the period covered by these records, Ursula was an only child. A sister was born half-way through the period, and her mother endeavoured to prepare Ursula for this event by telling her of it beforehand, and by being entirely candid in reply to all the child's questions, whatever they might be.

Ursula is highly intelligent (see her part in the Appendix to *Intellectual Growth in Young Children*) ; and she is a healthy, normal and most attractive and delightful child. She is happy with her friends and socially successful at school. She quickly took up a maternal role to the new baby, and remains on the whole a happy and devoted elder sister. There is a photograph of her holding the baby in her arms, with a blissfully maternal expression and pose.

Certain well-marked general phases of emotional attitude occurred during the period recorded, which perhaps do not come out so distinctly in the detailed records as they showed in reality.

a. Towards the end of her mother's pregnancy, she evinced a good deal of occasional anxiety and querulousness, together with excessive demonstrations of love for her mother, and reluctance to part with her, e.g. to go to school, b. After her mother's return home (the birth took place in a nursing-

home, and the mother was ill for many weeks  
there, the baby  
sister going home with a nurse some time before  
the mother),  
there was a period of some fretfulness and  
contrariness, the  
maternal attitude to the child being disturbed  
now and then  
by open jealousies. This fretfulness gradually  
died away, and  
Ursula became ordinarily cheerful and amenable  
again. After  
some months, during which the exploratory and  
masturbatory